



behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE
RMP 2005-I-03

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AIR POLLUTION COMPLAINTS RISE ACROSS ARIZONA TO HIGHEST LEVEL IN FIVE YEARS

Phoenix, Arizona, January 26, 2005. After peaking in the 1996 to 2000 period and then easing off between 2001 and 2004, the proportion of Arizona families reporting that one or more members of the household have suffered adverse reactions to air pollution has started to climb again. Today, 49 percent say at least one member of the household suffered problems they attribute to air pollution. This is up from 45 percent last year, 46 percent in 2003, but still lower than the peak reading of 59 percent registered in 2000.

Family complaints about air pollution affecting the health of members of the household continue to be highest in Maricopa County (51%) and have risen appreciably in Pima County (49%) and in the rural areas of the state (42%). The readings in rural Arizona are the highest we have recorded since 2000.

This year's survey also finds a pattern we have seen in prior years in which complaints about air pollution's adverse impacts on the family increase among lower income families. This may in turn trace to these groups having occupations or lifestyles that get them more involved in outdoor activities than their older or white collar counterparts.

The increase in complaints of air pollution's impact on personal health to nearly half of all families in Arizona is discouraging. Further, many identify respiratory or eye impacts as more than minor inconveniences. Thus, thirteen percent report "major" breathing difficulties and 18 percent report aggravation of existing lung disease such as asthma and emphysema. These levels are roughly comparable to last year.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 703 adults across Arizona conducted between January 4th and January 7th, 2005, by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona as part of the Center's independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll series. The public is welcome to visit www.brcpolls.com to read this and other recent polls.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2005-I-03) is based on 703 telephone interviews with adults, conducted from January 4th through January 7th, 2005, throughout Arizona. In the overall sample, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.7 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. The Maricopa and Pima County segments include 570 interviews and have a margin of error of plus or minus 4.2 percent. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

ENCLOSED: Statistical data for reference.

STATISTICAL DATA

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Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
RMP 2005-I-03

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"In the past several years, air pollution in some areas of Arizona reached the alert level. During the past several months, did you or other members of your household experience any of the following kinds of problems which you felt were directly the result of the air pollution?"

STATEWIDE

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH
ONE OR MORE PERSONS EXPERIENCING
ADVERSE REACTION TO AIR POLLUTION

	2005	2004	2003	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994
(ANY VISION OR RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS)	(49%)	(45%)	(46%)	(47%)	(59%)	(51%)	(53%)	(48%)	(54%)	(39%)	(41%)
<u>VISION</u>											
Minor eye irritations	34%	32%	31%	33%	44%	37%	37%	32%	38%	26%	29%
Major eye irritations (Any vision problems)	17 (36%)	18 (34%)	15 (34%)	16 (35%)	25 (46%)	22 (40%)	22 (41%)	18 (35%)	7 (39%)	6 (27%)	7 (30%)
<u>RESPIRATORY</u>											
Minor breathing difficulty	23	24	22	22	35	27	32	27	33	21	24
Sore or irritated throat not attributed to a cold or other illness	24	29	24	23	35	29	30	28	33	25	24
Aggravation of an existing lung disease such as asthma or emphysema	18	17	17	14	24	21	21	17	19	14	13
Major breathing difficulty (Any respiratory prob lems)	13 (39%)	13 (38%)	14 (36%)	11 (35%)	20 (50%)	17 (42%)	19 (45%)	16 (40%)	11 (44%)	8 (34%)	10 (34%)

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STATISTICAL DATA

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RMP 2005-I-03

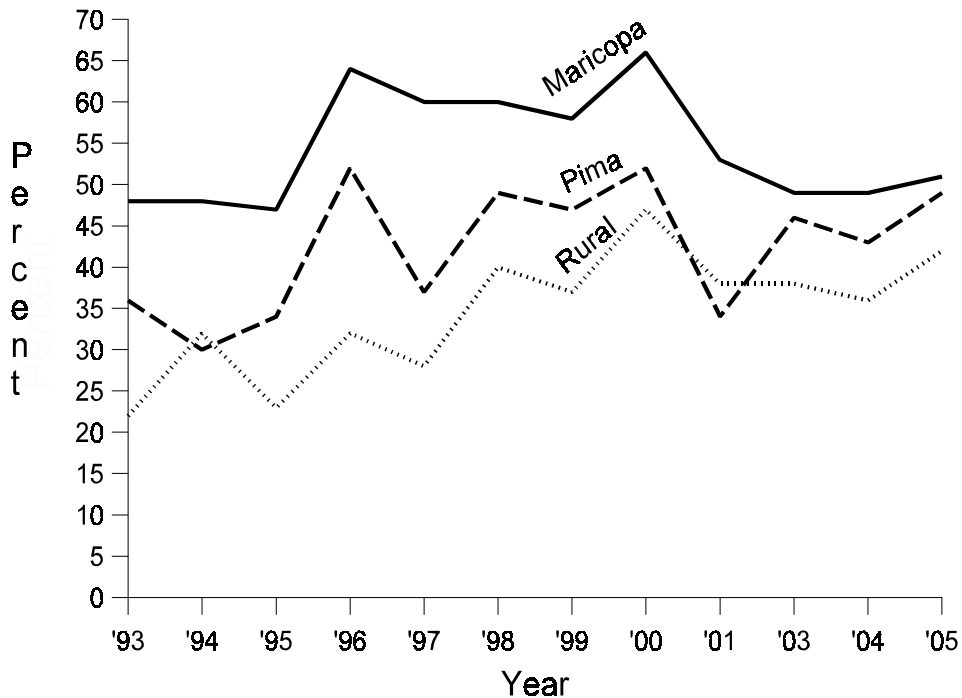
For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results).

ANY RESPIRATORY OR VISION PROBLEMS

|      | STATE<br>TOTAL | MARICOPA | PIMA | RURAL |
|------|----------------|----------|------|-------|
| 2005 | 49%            | 51%      | 49%  | 42%   |
| 2004 | 45             | 49       | 43   | 36    |
| 2003 | 46             | 49       | 46   | 38    |
| 2001 | 47             | 53       | 34   | 38    |
| 2000 | 59             | 66       | 52   | 47    |
| 1999 | 51             | 58       | 47   | 37    |
| 1998 | 53             | 60       | 49   | 40    |
| 1997 | 48             | 60       | 37   | 28    |
| 1996 | 54             | 64       | 52   | 32    |
| 1995 | 39             | 47       | 34   | 23    |
| 1994 | 41             | 48       | 30   | 32    |
| 1993 | 39             | 48       | 36   | 22    |

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ANY RESPIRATORY
OR VISION PROBLEM



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Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
RMP 2004-I-03

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<u>SPECIAL GROUPS</u>	<u>ANY VISION OR RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS</u>
Overall	49%
<u>AGE</u>	
Under 35	47
35 to 54	50
55+	49
Retirees	49
<u>INCOME</u>	
Under \$25,000	62
\$25,000 to \$44,999	58
\$45,000 to \$64,999	48
\$65,000 +	44
<u>VALLEY RESIDENTS</u>	
Tempe	41
Phoenix	64
West Valley	54
Southeast Valley	35
Scottsdale	51
Mesa	35

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